

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 778

By Bass

A RESOLUTION to honor the members of the Forrest High School Rocket Band of Blue upon winning the Division I State Championship and Governor's Cup.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for this General Assembly to honor those students whose proficiency in an art, craft, or trade has garnered them many accolades; and

WHEREAS, the art of creating music has long been an important part of humanity, serving as a voice for those traits that make us truly human, preserving our history, and forging bridges between diverse cultures; and

WHEREAS, recognition should be given to this State's young musicians who have been recognized numerous times for their excellent musical skills and ability to work together as a marching band; and

WHEREAS, the Forrest High School Rocket Band of Blue has been crowned State Champion of Division 1 in the 2007 Contest of Champions; and

WHEREAS, this event is widely regarded as the premier invitational marching band competition in Tennessee; many bands competed for the coveted Governor's Cup, the highest honor a Tennessee marching band can attain, but the Rocket Band of Blue emerged victorious to claim the title of Division 1 State Champion; and

WHEREAS, the victory is especially sweet, as the Band of Blue has placed in the top eight at the Division I State Marching Band Championship for the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, having won this prestigious competition as a result of its perennial dedication to the highest standards of musical and marching performance, the Forrest High School Rocket Band of Blue serves as the gold standard among its peers in the State of Tennessee and across this great nation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to winning the 2007 Division 1 State Championship at the Contest of Champions held in Murfreesboro, the Forrest Rocket Band of Blue earned All Superior ratings in the Guard, Field Commanders, Percussion, and Band categories, was the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Band in the Preliminaries, produced a State Champion in the Field Commanders category, and claimed 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Soloist Baritone (Jana Blunkall), High Music, and High Visual categories; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades prior to winning the Division I State Championship, the Rocket Band of Blue earned All Superior Ratings in the Guard, Field Commanders, Percussion, and Band categories, in addition to claiming the Class Championship and the overall Grand Championship at the Montgomery Central Marching Contest; and

WHEREAS, the Rocket Band of Blue also won the Grand Championship at the Trousdale County Marching Yellowjacket Invitational, claimed 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Field Commander, Percussion, Guard, and Band categories, and received All Superior Ratings; and

WHEREAS, the Rocket Band of Blue won a third Grand Championship and the Small Division Championship at the Highland Rim Marching Contest, while also earning All Superior Ratings and being named Best in Class in the Percussion, Guard, Field Commanders, and Band categories; and

WHEREAS, at the Mid-South Marching Invitational at Austin Peay, the Forrest Band placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class Preliminaries and was impressive as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Band overall in the Finals, in addition to receiving All Superior Ratings; and

WHEREAS, the Rocket Band of Blue also earned a Superior Rating at the MTSBOA Marching Festival at Spring Hill; and

WHEREAS, these remarkable student-musicians owe a great deal of their instruction and musical exposure to the constant and astute leadership of Band Director Billy W. Bateman; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the band has performed music from award-winning shows such as *Heroes*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Civil War Suite*, *Ray Charles*, *Beatles on Tour*, *Fantasmic*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and this year's state championship award-winning performance, *Phantom of the Opera*; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Bateman's able leadership, the Forrest Rocket Band of Blue has grown to almost fifty members; each of the following young people is an exemplary ambassador of this State: Crystal Cannon, Rachel Harris, and Kim Meacham on the clarinet; Madeline Bell, Kimber Luna, and Taylor Blanchett on the flute; Stacey Byrd, Devin Barnes, Brianna La Fleur, Sarah Stemple, Lindsey Gaskill, and Sam Hartley on the Saxophone and French Horn; Brooke Russell, Caleb Boone, Lauren Eatherly, Tyler Williams, Tyler Miarecki, and Tyler Hargrove on the trumpet; Jared Blanchett, Paul Caraglio, and Matt Kline on the trombone; Jana Blunkall, Jed Hall, and Shawna Crafton on the baritone; Travis Ryder and Brian Hartley on the tuba; Jon Fleet, Josh Hall, Gunner Warlick, James Luna, Matt Cryer, Zach Brown, and Audra Mobley on percussion; Keisha Sherrill, Sara Lubieski, Reilly Rowland, Learyn Miller, and Brittani Stewart in the pit; Megan Baker, Katie Freeman, Chelsea Moore, Amber Scott, Amber Barnes, and Lauren French as guard members; Bethany Gamble and Taylor Herron as field commanders; and Jesse Baker as manager; and

WHEREAS, Band of Blue members are most appreciative of the support of Chapel Hill Principal Mike Bishop, Assistant Principal Rocky Bowden, and Chapel Hill Elementary Principal Dean Delk, as well as the leadership of its 2007 officers, including President Denise Cannon, Vice President Roger Russell, Treasurer Janice Blanchett, Secretary Emily Bell, Members at Large Sallyann Barnes and Michelle Williams, Historian Leslie Eatherly, and Liason to Director George Dickovitch; and

WHEREAS, the Rocket Band of Blue's newly established 2008 cadre of officers, many of them veterans, will no doubt carry on in the same winning tradition; they are President Denise Cannon, Vice President Fred Boone, Treasurer Janice Blanchett, Secretary Emily Bell, Members at Large Sallyann Barnes and Cindy Meecham, Historian Scott Cryer and Liason to Director George Dickovitch; and

WHEREAS, the Forrest High School Rocket Band of Blue always gives the judges and its audience an exquisite display of team unity; the tremendous success of the Forrest Band program is made possible by the ample support of parents, boosters, local music educators, and the entire Chapel Hill community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to these remarkable student-musicians for their hard work and many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Band Director Billy W. Bateman and the members of the Forrest High School Rocket Band of Blue on winning the Division I State Championship and the coveted Governor's Cup at the prestigious 2007 Contest of Champions and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in their future endeavors, both musically and otherwise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.